

## LOCAL/STATE B

Sunday,  
August 11, 2013Robert A.  
DeFrank  
Staff Writer

## Summer filled with activities

THIS SUMMER has offered a mix of sweltering days along with days soaked by the increasing rain, along with some days that form a mixture of each. There also have been many different festivities and events for the enjoyment of individuals and families.

Recently, Belmont County served as the host for the well-known and anticipated Jamboree In the Hills, which was another successful celebration. The particular music festival lasts four days and was a draw for the county and enjoyed very much despite opening to high temperatures. The music and good feeling were in the air from the redneck run onward, and many medical and law enforcement personnel were on hand to head off any trouble, injury or ailments that might be reported.

Another recent event popular around the area and that served as a draw for a great many people was the famous Italian Heritage Festival. Held in nearby Wheeling, the event has often enjoyed the participation of local clubs such as the Sons of Italy, located in Bellaire.

The turnout could sample varieties of different food, vintages of wine, and the cultural legacy of music, craft work, and other traditions remembered by one of the cultures that have enriched the Ohio Valley area.

Currently at the writing of this column, Martins Ferry's famous Betty Zane Days celebration has been launched and will continue from its kick-off Aug. 6 until the final day of the festivities and fun marked at Aug. 10. Deshler Amusements again provided the carnival-style rides and meanwhile the stands were set up and music was playing Tuesday in anticipation of a strong turnout by a proud and vibrant community.

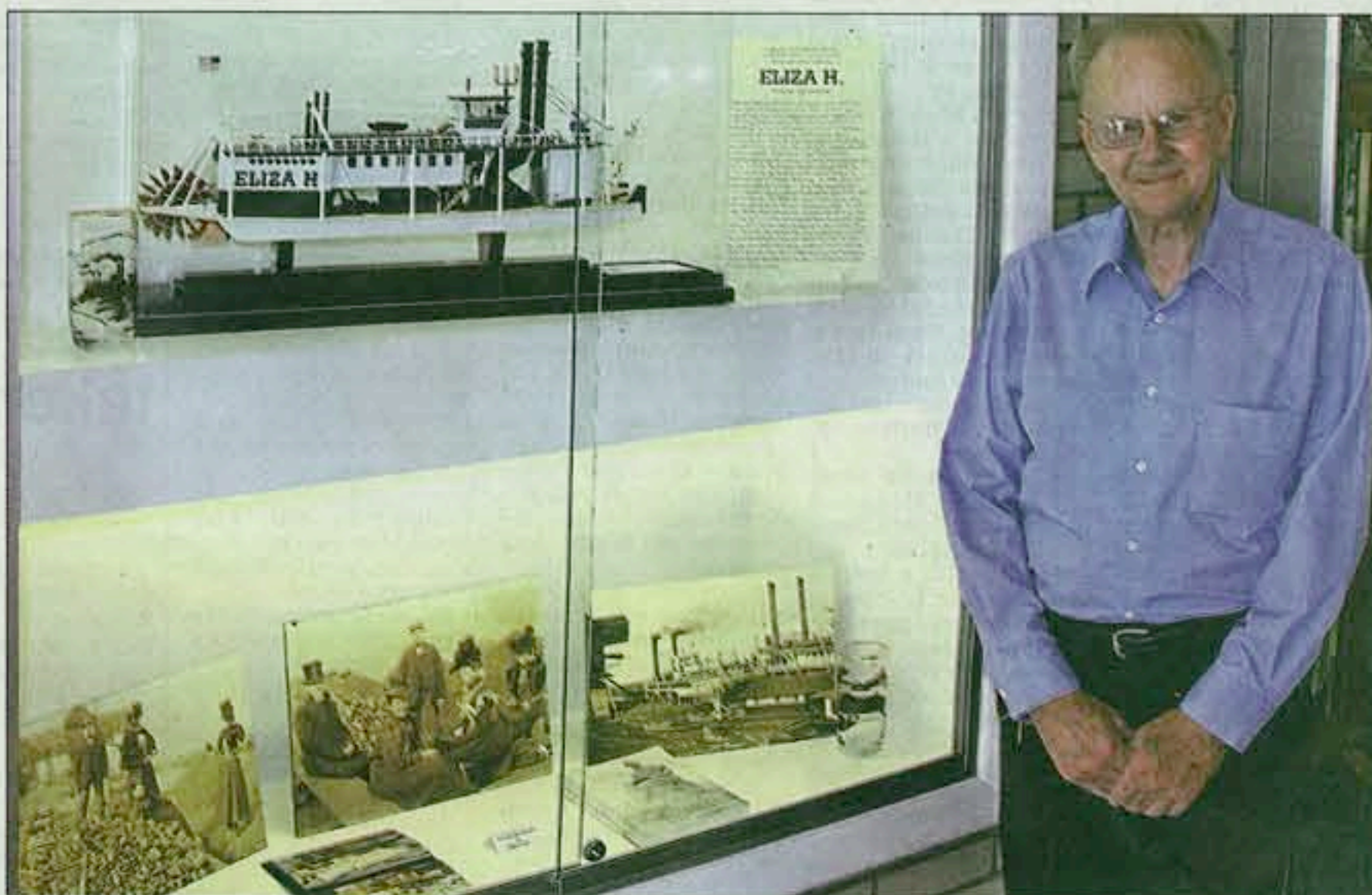
The city office, chamber of commerce and the fire department were hard at work preparing and selling tickets, with the parade expected Saturday, along with some of the more popular events, such as the mushball tournament and the water battle. During the latter event, the police department will throw its hat in the ring beside an abundance of fire helmets for the first time, so all sides will hope for the cheers and applause of onlookers to urge them on to perform at their best.

When thinking over the activity at this site, one cannot fail to notice or forget to mention all the upgrades and enhancements to City Park that have been ongoing through the summer to establish an eye-catching showplace for casual recreational purposes as well as official city gatherings and events such as Betty Zane Days.

As the summer wanes and September and October roll ever closer in a colorful fall of leaves, you might think about other activities or events. The local bike trail or walking path could offer up a scenic opportunity to view the natural world, and Ohio and West Virginia have no shortage at all of tours through natural or historic sites from the country's Civil War onward, all scrupulously kept up by the ongoing efforts of dedicated volunteers and often expanded by civic and community groups and young people such as the Boy Scouts on the way to earning merit and credit.

Safety is always a factor so when planning an outing or regular outside chores, check the weather forecast and prepare accordingly. Experts in the field of health agree that an intake of fluids, light weight or appropriate clothing, the use of sunscreen or the finding of shade, and care for particularly vulnerable individuals such as children or the elderly are all pointers to keep in mind to keep an active summer active and avoid unnecessary pitfalls.

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T/L Photo MIKE PALMER

WITH A model of the Eliza H., now being displayed at the National Imperial Glass Museum, Bellaire, is John Bowman, author, historian and steamboat model builder. The exhibit also includes other material, including a historical novel about Eliza Heatherington whose husband, Jacob, was a coal magnate in Belmont County, and the book is available for sale. Museum hours are Thursdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A photo of a painting of the Heatherington mansion is on Page A1.

## 'Eliza and The House That Jack Built'

By BETTY J. POKAS  
Times Leader Area Editor

AN EXHIBIT at the National Imperial Glass Museum, Bellaire, helps to evoke memories related to coal magnate Jacob Heatherington and his wife, Eliza, as well as his faithful and hard-working partner — a little, black mule named Jack.

A model of the Eliza H. towboat, made by John Bowman of Wheeling and commissioned by attorney Daniel L. Frizzi Jr., is displayed at the museum as are old-time pictures and the historical novel, "Eliza and the House That Jack Built." Also exhibited are glasses featuring steamboat decals produced by the Imperial Glass Corp., according to Rosalie Wenckoski, museum administrator.

Wenckoski said the National Imperial Glass Collectors Society also has copies of the book, "Eliza and the House That Jack Built," available for \$20 plus tax. The historical novel was written by Albert Wass, a Hungarian nobleman who later taught at the University of Florida.

Bowman, an author and historian once selected as a West Virginia History Hero, makes steamboat models from scratch, using available pictures and histories of steamboats. Built in 1889, the Eliza H. replaced the ailing 1875 towboat, Jacob Heatherington.

This towboat, which changed ownership several times, continued in operation until the late 1930s, according to the historical material in the museum, which is open Thursdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Museum displays have been updated, according to Wenckoski.

The Imperial Glass showplace isn't the only Bellaire location featuring items related to the Heatheringtons.

A painting of "The House That Jack Built" by Albert Long is displayed at the Bellaire Public Library as is the likeness of Jack's head which was carved for the keystone of the front door arch in that magnificent house, which formerly stood in the area of 16th and Belmont streets in Bellaire.

Designed by an architect brought from England, the mansion was constructed in 1870 with the cost being \$30,000 to \$35,000. It was dedicated by Heatherington to Jack "in recognition of a companion who never failed him in days of adversity," according to the "Centennial History of Belmont County," edited by A.H. McKelvey.

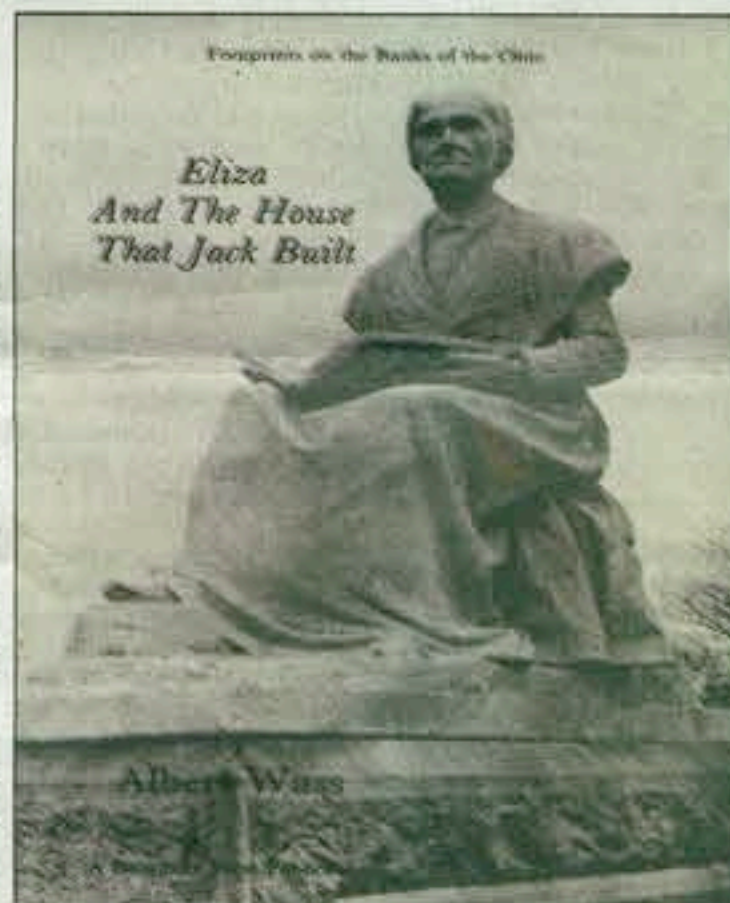
Then, there's the monument on Eliza's grave in Greenwood Cemetery, Bellaire. The statue of Eliza is seated, and she's holding a book said to be the Bible. The historical novel contends that she now looks down on some people who once looked down on her because of her Whiskey Run beginnings. Jacob had the monument erected to honor his wife, the former Eliza Armstrong, who was from Whiskey Run, north of Bellaire.

In the 1970s, a reproduction of the House That Jack Built was created by Nancy (Futhey) Duggan, and it was displayed at the Bellaire Glass and Artifacts Museum.

The late Jimmy Mountain, in a column in The Times Leader in 1976, described that model of the house as so "fantastic, so near to the original that it wouldn't be surprising if the ghost of old Jacob Heatherington were found wandering around in it sometime."

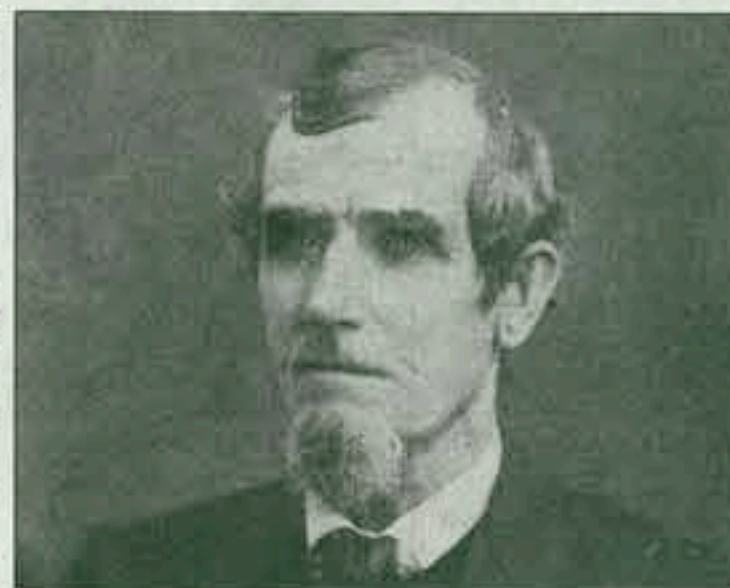
Noting that Heatherington with Jack's help had the "first coal baron empire in the whole area," Mountain said the mansion was torn down in 1958. He added that in the years prior to that time, nearly everyone ignored the historic implication of the house and nothing was done to preserve it.

See, ELIZA, Page B3



Photos Provided

A STATUE of Eliza Heatherington adorns the cover of this book about her, and it stands in Greenwood Cemetery, Bellaire. Her husband had the statue sculpted in England, and from the hill-top, Eliza overlooks the Ohio River and Bellaire. She was one of the original members of the Christian Church in Bellaire. Below is a picture of Jacob Heatherington.



LEFT: This photo of the towboat Eliza H. is at the Belmont Coal Co. tippie in Bellaire. It is among the photographs from the olden days in the exhibit at the National Imperial Glass Museum, Bellaire.

Photo Provided



## ● Eliza

Continued from Page B1

He said in 1935, some businessmen considered a plan to restore the house as a tourist attraction, "but like too many good ideas, that's all it remained, an idea, and the lonesome old house continued to sit down there on the hillside, getting kicked around by a succession of non-historic-minded owners and unimpressed tenants and disinterested citizens ...."

The 'Centennial History of Belmont County,' notes, in part: "Inseparably connected with Mr. Heatherington's early and arduous labors was the little black mule called 'Jack.' As he grew old and died, worn through years of useful service, the 'side-partner,' as his affectionate and appreciative master denominated him, was given burial in a quiet and shady corner of the estate, while the members of the family grieved as at the loss of a friend."

McKelvey's book reports the Heatherington family, was "conspicuous for wealth and business activity, but also for its public spirit, civic usefulness and social position." Jacob and his wife, Eliza, are mentioned in many of the area's historical books printed in the late 1800s or early 1900s.

Jacob, born in England in 1814, arrived in America as a teenager without any educational advantages. His father settled in West Wheeling, then known as Whiskey Run, and had a small coal mine. Jacob later bought land in Bellaire and eventually owned several coal mines.

Involved in varied business, civic and church activities, Jacob once told the Watt brothers in Barnesville of the need for a mining car wheel that didn't rust. Stewart Watt developed the self-oiling wheel, and a patent was obtained in 1893 with the Watt Car and Wheel Co. selling cars



**THIS LIKENESS** of Jack, the mule which was Jacob Heatherington's hard-working partner, was carved for the keystone of the front door arch in Heatherington's mansion. It now is displayed in the Bellaire Public Library. Heatherington reportedly took Jack on a tour of the mansion, just after its completion.

world-wide by the end of the century. The company also won a blue ribbon at the 1893 Columbian Exposition for the self-oiling wheel.

Jacob's interests were broad, and he also left visible reminders of those who were so meaningful in his life — his wife, Eliza, and a mule named Jack.

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## Bellaire graduate earns scholarship

NICOLE TAYLOR, a 2011 graduate of Bellaire High School, is a 2013 recipient of the Ambassador Scholarship, which covers full tuition costs, at the University of Cincinnati's Blue Ash College.

A resident of West Chester, Ohio, Nicole is the daughter of Marlene Hutcheson (West Chester, OH) and George Hinton (Martins Ferry, OH).

To be eligible for the Ambassador Scholarship, applicants must first interview and be selected to serve as Peer Mentors, who work Summer orientation sessions. After being selected as a Peer Mentor, receiv-

ing faculty recommendations, and maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 3.0, a student is eligible to apply for the honor of Student Ambassador. The application process includes an interview, presentation and mock campus tour. Both of these positions are open to all University of Cincinnati students, but only ten are selected for the Ambassador title.

Student Ambassadors serve as the "face" of the college and actively engage in events and programs. They also take part in resume building, public speaking, and work with college faculty. It is a one-

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